

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was 2.9 million metric tons (Mt), which was 18% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Total production for 2004 was 5% higher than in 2003.

Phosphate rock sold or used in December was withheld for the Florida and North Carolina region and the United States total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Phosphate rock sold or used in the Idaho and Utah region was 440,000 metric tons in December. Total phosphate rock sold or used for 2004 was 35.8 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of December 2004 decreased 2% from November.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier to the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. Table 4 shows exports of phosphate rock from Morocco to the United States and other countries for the entire year. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 210,000 metric tons per month in 2004.

Domestic apparent consumption in 2004 was estimated at 38.3 Mt, using sales and use data and trade estimates, compared with 37.8 Mt in 2003.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	335	3,060	2,660	424	3,080	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	343	2,920	2,420	454	2,870	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200	2,550	434	2,980	5,750	1,720	7,470
April	2,600	335	2,940	2,640	415	3,050	5,720	1,640	7,360
May	2,700	525	3,220	2,720	384	3,110	5,680	1,780	7,460
June	2,550	524	3,070	2,470	338	2,800	5,750	1,840	7,590
July	2,700	466	3,160	2,810	426	3,210	5,750	1,880	7,630
August	2,120	542	2,660	2,480	505	2,980	5,430	1,920	7,340
September	1,760	549	2,310	1,880	406	2,280	5,150	2,060	7,210
October	2,170	527	2,690	2,390	W	W	W	W	7,180
November	W <sup>r</sup>	W <sup>r</sup>	3,520 <sup>r</sup>	W <sup>r</sup>	W <sup>r</sup>	3,620 <sup>r</sup>	W	W	7,170 <sup>r</sup>
December	W	W	2,900	W	440	W	W	W	7,020
Total	30,300	5,360	35,700	30,800	5,000	35,800	XX	XX	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
January-November	1,120	40,600
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,300	47,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,400	84,000
2004: <sup>4</sup>		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
March	145	5,580
April	28	760
May	180	6,650
June	146	5,700
July	63	1,720
August	157	6,030
September	118	4,990
October	137	5,240
November	80	2,190
Total	1,330	48,500

<sup>1</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2002	2003	2004
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	30.3
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	5.4
Total <sup>1</sup>	36.1	34.1	35.7
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	30.8
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.0
Total <sup>1</sup>	34.7	35.4	35.8
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.0
Exports	(2) <sup>3</sup>	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.7	2.4	2.5
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e,4</sup>	37.4	37.8	38.3

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

<sup>3</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4  
MOROCCAN  
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2004

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	145
Austria	187
Belgium	440
Brazil	933
Bulgaria	16
Colombia	30
El Salvador	13
France	449
Germany	166
Greece	118
India	976
Indonesia	177
Iran	25
Italy	145
Japan	104
Korea, Republic of	305
Lithuania	65
Mexico	936
New Zealand	475
Pakistan	202
Peru	67
Poland	783
Portugal	70
Romania	266
Serbia and Montenegro	244
Spain	1,680
Thailand	163
Turkey	17
United Kingdom	3
United States	2,510
Uruguay	15
Venezuela	106
Total	11,800

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--  
Casablanca, Morocco.